

## **SIEC Briefing Paper on the Spectrum Coalition**

Prepared by Dennis Hausman, DIS/MOST (360) 902-3463.

### **Description**

The Spectrum Coalition for Public Safety is a national coalition of cities, states, and public safety associations organized to secure additional spectrum in the 700 MHz range to support critical public safety wireless applications. This effort is consistent with a recommendation made by the Public Safety Wireless Advisory Committee (PSWAC) report, dated September 1996

### **Recommendations to the Committee**

It is the recommendation of the SIEC Advisory Working Group and Staff to this Committee, that the SIEC endorse the efforts of the Spectrum Coalition by authorizing the Chair of the SIEC to sign the appropriate letter showing support the efforts of that Coalition.

### **Status**

As of October 28 members of the Spectrum Coalition are: City of San Diego, U.S. Park Police, State of Delaware, Washington, DC, City of Phoenix, City of Denver, CapWin, Montgomery County, MD, RPC-25 (Montana), State of Texas, State of Arizona and the State of New York.

### **Issues**

The Spectrum Coalition is asking Congress to enact legislation to mandate the Federal Communications Commission to:

- Stop the pending auctions of the upper portion of the 700 MHz band.
- Allocate 10 MHz of the 700 MHz band to public safety and homeland security use for broadband applications.
- Mandate the broadcasters (who must already relocate) do so by a date certain – December 31, 2006 or earlier.
- Promote the implementation of technologies that fully satisfy a series of open-standards technical requirements.

### **Background**

Public Safety Communication require additional spectrum to carry out their primary function—to save lives and to protect property. Unfortunately, current networks or spectrum allocations do not provide sufficient bandwidth to enable critical high-speed next generation public safety technology. Significant network improvements and spectrum allocations are needed.

There is a solution – allocation by the FCC of at least 10 additional MHz of spectrum in the 700 MHz range to be use specifically for public safety services. The window of opportunity for this solution is closing rapidly as the FCC currently plans the auction of the remaining 700 MHz block of spectrum to commercial interests.